

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 1, and 14-16, and add new claim 17, as shown below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of imaging a lithographic printing plate having a heat sensitive coating, comprising the steps of:

- (a) imagewise applying droplets of a near infrared absorbing imaging material to the plate coating;
- (b) exposing the plate to near infrared emitters ~~whereby to immobilize~~
whereupon the near infrared absorbing imaging material absorbs energy causing a change in portions of said heat sensitive coating underlying said applied imaging material; and
- (c) ~~developing the coating~~ treating the plate with a developing solution to remove unchanged portions of said coating.

Claim 2 (original): The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

- (d) washing the developed plate.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

- (e) drying the washed plate.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material absorbs in the 2.2-3.2 micron range.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material absorbs in the 3.2-3.3 micron range.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material absorbs in the 3.33-3.55 micron range.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material absorbs in the 5.7-6.1 micron range.

Claim 8 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a photo-crosslinkable polymeric and polyazide binder.

Claim 9 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a resole and novolac resin with a latent bronsted acid.

Claim 10 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a heat setting monomer and binder resins.

Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a monomer with a heat activated polymerization initiator.

Claim 12 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a novolac resin with a naphthoquinone diazide sulfonic acid ester.

Claim 13 (original): The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises a diazo resin.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 wherein said coating comprises an ablative ~~materials~~ material.

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Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the near infrared absorbing imaging material comprises a dye, a pigment or combination of a dye and a pigment.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 15 wherein the dye or pigment is selected from the group consisting of a squarylium dye, croconate dye, phthalocyanine, a merocyanine dye, indolizine, pyrlium, dithiolene, a metal complex, carbon black, and phthalocyanine.

Claim 17 (new): The method of claim 1, wherein the developing solution comprises water.

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